

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 1. A method of making a composite panel comprising:
 2 providing a formable sheet having at least one layer;
 3 locating the formable sheet adjacent to a forming surface;
 4 making a formed sheet by conforming the formable sheet to the
 5 forming surface so that a characterizing topography projects from the formable
 6 sheet;
 7 removing the formed sheet from the forming surface;
 8 providing a substrate having a front surface, a rear surface, and an
 9 opening therethrough; and
 10 attaching the formed sheet to the rear surface of the substrate so that
 11 the characterizing topography appears through the opening.

1 2. The method of claim 1 wherein the substrate further comprises
 2 a plurality of bosses extending from the rear surface.

1 3. The method of claim 2 further comprising the step of:
 2 forming a plurality of openings through the formed sheet before the
 3 formed sheet is attached to the substrate.

1 4. The method of claim 3 wherein the step of attaching the
 2 formed sheet to the substrate comprises placing the formed sheet on the substrate so
 3 that at least one of the plurality of bosses extends through one of the plurality of
 4 openings.

1 5. The method of claim 4 wherein the step of attaching the
 2 formed sheet to the substrate further comprises the step of:
 3 heat staking the bosses extending through the holes in the formed
 4 sheet.

1 6. The method of claim 4 wherein the step of attaching the
2 formed sheet to the substrate further comprises the step of:
3 upsetting the bosses extending through the openings in the formed
4 sheet.

1 7. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of attaching the
2 formed sheet to the substrate further comprises applying adhesive to a portion of at
3 least one of the formed sheet and substrate.

1 8. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of providing a
2 formable sheet comprises the step of providing a sheet with at least one simulated
3 wood grain layer.

1 9. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of providing a
2 formable sheet comprises the step of providing a sheet with at least one decorative
3 layer.

1 10. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of:
2 trimming the formed sheet before attaching the formed sheet to the
3 substrate.

1 11. A composite panel comprising:
2 a substrate having a front and a rear surface, an opening
3 therethrough;
4 an insert panel having a characterizing topography extending
5 therefrom;
6 wherein the insert panel is located on the rear surface of the substrate
7 so that the characterizing topography appears through the opening; and
8 means to secure the insert panel to the substrate.

1 12. The composite panel of claim 11 wherein the substrate further
2 comprises a plurality of bosses extending from the back surface, the insert panel

3 further comprises a plurality of openings on the flat plane corresponding to the
4 bosses, and wherein the insert panel is placed on the substrate so that at least one of
5 the plurality of bosses extends through at least one of the plurality of openings.

1 13. The composite panel of claim 12 wherein the means for
2 securing the insert panel to the substrate comprises a mechanical lock formed in the
3 bosses extending through the openings.

1 14. The composite panel of claim 13 wherein the mechanical lock
2 is formed by means for heat staking the bosses that extend through the openings.

1 15. The composite panel of claim 13 wherein the mechanical lock
2 is formed by means for upsetting the bosses that extend through the openings.

1 16. The composite panel of claim 11 wherein means for securing
2 the insert panel to the substrate comprise adhesive applied to a portion of at least one
3 of the insert panel or substrate.

1 17. The composite panel of claim 11 wherein the insert panel
2 comprises a plurality of layers.

1 18. The composite panel of claim 17 wherein one or more of the
2 layers has a wood grain finish.

1 19. A method of making a composite panel comprising:
2 providing a formable sheet having at least one layer;
3 locating the formable sheet adjacent a forming surface;
4 making a formed sheet by conforming the formable sheet to the
5 forming surface so that a characterizing form projects from the formable sheet and
6 by forming a tab extending from the formed sheet;
7 removing the formed sheet from the forming surfaces;
8 providing a substrate having a front surface, a rear surface, and a tab
9 opening therethrough; and

10 attaching the formed sheet to the substrate so that at least one tab
11 extends through the tab opening to secure the formed panel to the substrate.

1 20. A composite panel comprising:
2 a substrate having a front and a rear surface;
3 at least one tab opening extending therethrough;
4 an insert panel having a characterizing topography and at least one
5 tab extending therefrom;
6 wherein the insert panel is placed on the front surface of the substrate
7 and the tab extends through the tab opening to secure the insert panel to the
8 substrate.